So put another dime in the jukebox, baby

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So put another dime in the jukebox, baby

by lefemmerouge

Summary

After Hailey refused to have her life dictated by the list, and Beta, she went out with Sanjay at the school dance. Quickly thereafter she realized that she didn't have the chemistry with him that she thought. Refusing to go back to her old life, make up with Scott (and admit she had feelings for him) or tell everyone she was wrong all along, she skipped town, and left her bracelet behind, showing she no longer wanted to be bound to completing list items. Meanwhile, Scott and Beta try to put the pieces together, fighting off the chaos bots, and are unsure how they can convince Hailey to finish the list.

Notes

I started writing this after finishing the last episode, to date, of Hailey's On It!, entitled "I Wanna Dance With My Buddy," I decided to write this fic. I know others are likely doing post-canon fics of this series, I wanted to do my own spin on this. I really hope Hailey's On It gets another season since it ended on a bit of a cliffhanger! Spoilers for those who haven't seen the final episode!

Like my other fics in this fic series (May 2024 Lyrical Titles Challenge), this is taken from a song of Joan Jett's first EP, "I Love Rock'N Roll 92" which was only released in Japan in 1992. Specifically I took lyrics from the song "I Love Rock 'N' Roll" which is on that EP. I plan to write one more fic of the Lyrical Titles community to complete this challenge, centering around the titles or lyrics of the other songs in the EP: "Talkin' Bout My Baby".

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update: This fic was cross-posted on Squidge World on 12/15/24. The revisions there were posted here, updating/improving the fic. I updated this fic again on 5/18/25.

See the end of the work for more notes

Originally she had made up Sanjay Singh as a way to hide her feelings for Scott, but when the compatibility app showed that she didn't share any commonalities with Scott, it broke her. The app (despite having faulty results from Scott) confirmed her worst fears. Seeing Scott go with another girl to the dance made her *furious*. So, in revenge, she contacted Sanjay and he ended up as her date to the dance. She could tell that Scott was distraught, but, she wasn't sure how to get out of this situation. She had already set aside the list and Beta. She had put aside her wristband too. She wanted control over her *own* life, not have it dictated by someone from the future.

However, dating Sanjay caused her friendship with Scott to fizzle into nothingness, even after Scott attempted to contact her. People at school weren't sure what to think of her anymore. She had a sense that her own parents didn't support her choice of a partner. She soon learned they had been right about Sanjay. He was nothing more than bluster. Sure, he had the looks, but he had *no substance*. Soon enough, she saw on his social media that he was with another girl, who he openly called his girlfriend. When she was about to text him, angrily, he sent something back. "It was fun, but it's over." She cried for days, not over Sanjay but her thoughtless decisions.

Hailey had lost everything. Not only had she cowardly refused to ask Scott out, and admit she had a crush on him, but she had created this whole charade. It became too much for her. Beta wouldn't even talk to her. For him, talking to Scott was more worth his time. One early morning, after the sunrise, she snuck out her bedroom window, without a plan or place to go. She couldn't hide out in the lighthouse or anywhere else, since they would find her there. She decided to take her phone with her, as an emergency, but turned it off, so no one could contact her. She was a *lost soul*, unsure if returning to Oceanside was a good idea or not.

Later that day, Scott and Beta were *panicking*. If this wasn't fixed quickly, the world would descend into chaos. The best they could do, for now, was to stop the chaos bots. Although Scott had been helping Hailey on the list, he didn't have one of his own. They both rejected the idea of creating an alternate list, thinking it would make things too complicated. Perhaps the situation was *lost*.

"This is bad...really bad." Scott agreed. What could they do? They needed Hailey back, but how? They knew she left that morning, thanks to Patricia coming over to the Donegas, saying in horror that Hailey was nowhere to be found. Some people would have called the police, but knowing that the police didn't help people like *them*, and hurt *them* more than anything, they wanted to give her...space.

"Beta, you are right...Hailey...for everything she is done...is *still* a good person." Beta begrudgingly agreed. As much as she annoyed him, she was the key to the world being saved, as absurd as that was to think about sometimes.

Solemnly, they left his room, walking through Oceanside to make sure chaos bots weren't causing trouble. Beta could sense the robots. And with his help, they had done a pretty good job. It wasn't the same without Hailey being there. He had *never* told her that he had feelings for him. Her disappearance caused his feelings to bubble up, again. He was in worse shape than ever.

"We can't go on like this...Beta...we really need Hailey back!...*I* need her back!" Beta patted him on the head. He knew it must be hard for him. He couldn't do much to console him. But he *needed* their romance to work out. Otherwise, the world would fall apart and chaos bots would destroy everything. That was the nightmare he *had* to prevent.

At the same time, Hailey walked to a state park by herself, with a backpack filled with some supplies. She went over a fence topped with barbed wire. In the process, she scratched her leg, which began bleeding. She quickly wrapped it up, which stopped *some* of the blood. She wasn't sure what she was doing. She hoped that walking through the woods would help clear her head. Whether it could do that or not was anyone's guess.

The climb up the rocky terrain was treacherous. That didn't matter to her. She wanted to get away from it all, to escape reality. She knew *very little* about going in the forest or even hiking, apart from what she had done with Scott, so she was woefully unprepared. Perhaps after all of this, she could go back to Oceanside... and tell everyone what she did wrong.

Out of nowhere, she slipped on a rock and went tumbling down the slope. In the process, she tried to stop herself, but to no avail. She tried to use her hands, but they soon became scratched up, with many blisters. The only thing that stopped her descent were two boulders. In her process to get back to the trail, her foot got trapped in the crevice between the two rocks.

She thought she could do it on her own. After all, she was Hailey Banks and she could do *anything* she put her mind to! She attempted to free her foot and yelped in pain. She had never felt *so defeated* in her entire life.

Lucky for her, Becker was walking along the nearby hiking trail with her girlfriend, Kennedy. She had thought of becoming a junior ranger, but shot it down, as she still wanted to be...wild...in her own way. While this disappointed Kennedy a bit, she *still loved* her little cluster of unpredictability and spontaneity. It kept her on her toes.

Becker saw it first, then Kennedy. They could see the tracks in the ground. A body had been there. Kennedy remarked "this doesn't look good. Maybe someone was attacked?...by a bear or something?"

This seemed unlikely. Becker knew there weren't many bears around that area. Soon enough, as they bushwacked, they came across someone who had their foot stuck in the crevice.

Both of them looked at her and then at each other, saying in disbelief "is that...Hailey Banks?" She looked terrible. Her clothes were ripped, her leg was bloody, her face was scratched up, and her backpack had tears through it. In some ways, she was unrecognizable.

Hailey nodded. Kennedy knew what to do. They *had* to get her to a hospital. No matter *how annoying* she had been recently, with the whole Sanjay thing, they *had* to get her out of there!

Working together, Becker and Kennedy were able to remove Hailey's foot from the crevice. She was barely conscious. She couldn't stand on her own, without assistance. They carried her back to the trail head.

Becker was a bit annoyed. She *hoped* this would all be worth it, knowing how much pain Hailey had caused her brother after she broke apart their friendship.

As they carried her back, she started mumbling. One of the things she said was coherent. "If I don't make it...tell Scott that I *like* him."

While Hailey's statement surprised Kennedy, Becker *knew* that Hailey had a crush on her brother. That much was obvious. Kennedy, on the other hand, wasn't always the best at picking up these clues.

They carried her back to the trail head and the parking lot, where they called 911. An ambulance soon came to bring her to the nearby hospital. Becker, who had been carrying Hailey's backpack (and handed it to someone in the ambulance), knew *she* would have to break the news to her brother. Although finding Hailey had *ruined* her hike with her girlfriend, she was hopeful that Hailey's return could cause the drama to be dialed back.

Kennedy laughed. "You were a real trooper back there, B...I wasn't sure you had it in you." Becker chuckled. She had to show her girlfriend she meant business.

"Yeah, I can do that stuff if I want to...I hope my brother and her can patch up stuff...he's been a *wreck*...recently."

Then she added something which puzzled Kennedy. "He talks to this weird stuffed teddy bear all the time...I saw it once... and he declared 'nothing to see here!' And shut the door. I think he might be losing it."

Although Kennedy wasn't sure what in the world Becker was talking about, she wanted to reschedule, after this whole thing. Next time, she wanted to do something her girlfriend was more enthusiastic about.

"Hey, B, you choose the place and time...let's hang out *again*." Becker couldn't agree more. She *loved* spending time with Kennedy. They always clicked. "Sure, K. Any time."

Some time later, Becker came back home, exhausted. Before she slumped down on her bed, she opened Scott's bedroom door. He was intently talking to Beta. He didn't see her until it was too late. She didn't care *what weird thing* he had with this talking teddy bear thing. She had to tell him. "Your girlfriend or whatever...you know that Hailey girl...we found her in that state park...she's at Oceanside Banks Hospital...she was injured pretty badly...and unconscious."

Scott was surprised. He didn't even register what she was saying until she was about to walk out of the room. She *really* loved to tease him too much! "Hey! She isn't my girlfriend...I mean..."

Becker nodded. She knew that Scott liked Hailey. She closed Scott's bedroom door and walked down the stairs, and out the house's front door, preparing to share the news about Hailey's whereabouts with her family, next...

End Notes

I kind of wrote this fic as a stream of consciousness if you will. I do plan on writing some more creative fics with Hailey's On It! in the future, but this one just came to me, somehow. Also, I must say that "I Love Rock 'N' Roll" is one of my favorite Joan Jett songs. I really like Becker and Kennedy together, although I'm totally down with the Becker / Hailey ship, to be honest.

Works inspired by this one

He's got a way that makes me tremble by lefemmerouge

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